

THE NEW YORK HERALD.

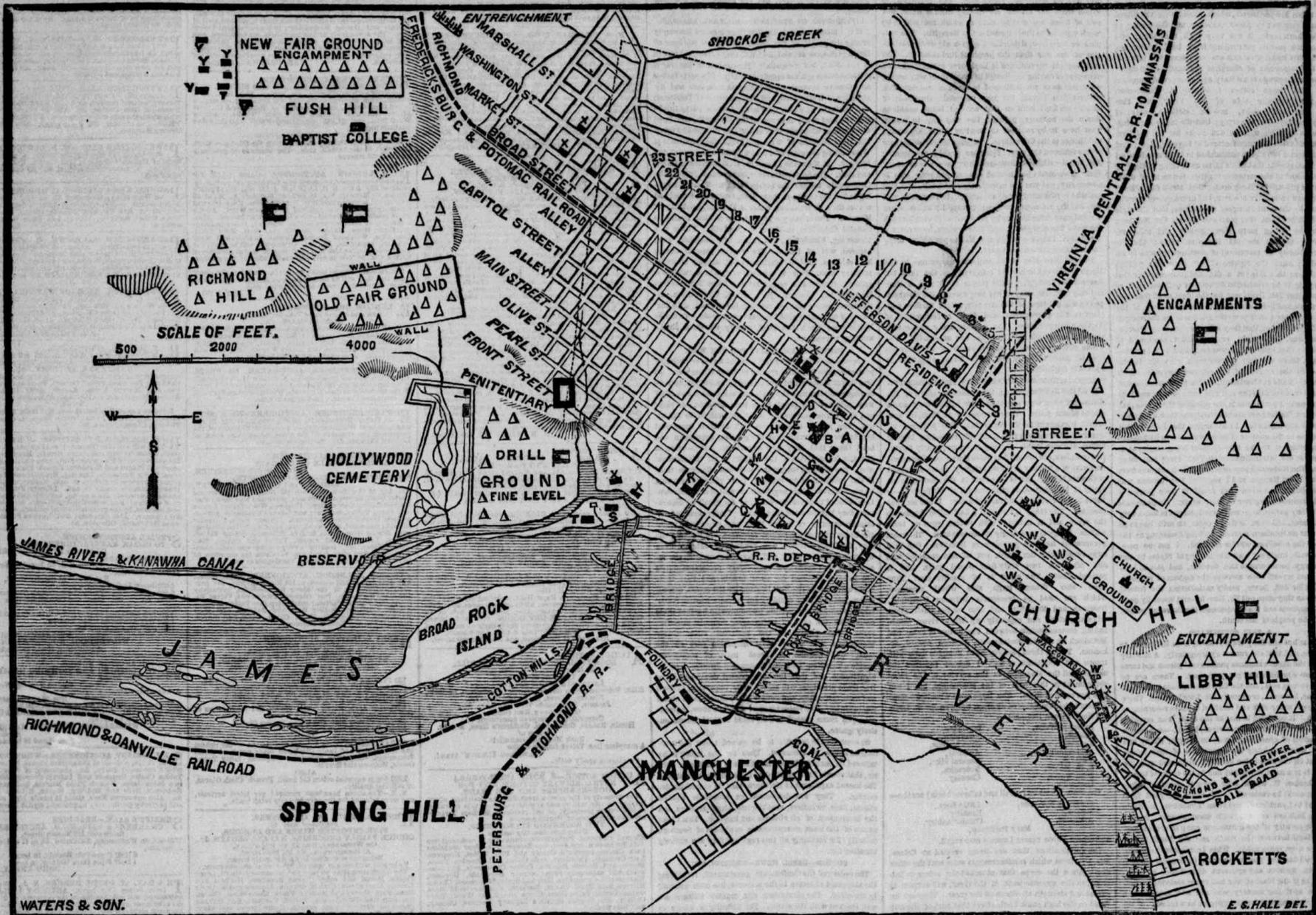
WHOLE NO. 9194.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1861.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

MAP OF THE REBEL CAPITAL.

Topographical Sketch of the City of Richmond, Virginia, with the Surrounding Encampments.



A.—Capitol square. X X X.—Tobacco warehouses. C.—Governor's house. E.—Statue of Henry Clay. G.—Freemason's Hall. I.—Catholic Church. K.—Railroad depot. M.—Spottwood House. O.—Post Office. Q.—Ballard House. S.—State Army. V.—Alms-houses. B.—Capitol. Y Y Y.—Sheds for winter. D.—Washington's statue. F.—City Hall. H.—Episcopal Church. L.—Jeff. Davis' residence. N.—American House. P.—Exchange Hotel. R.—Flour Mill. T.—Tredgar Works. W W W.—Hospitals.

THE REBELS AND THEIR CAPITAL.

RICHMOND AND ITS ENVIRONS.

The Union Prisoners of War, Their Sufferings and Claims on the Government.

Intrenchments and Camps of Instruction.

Barracks and Huts for Winter Quarters at Richmond.

Public Works, Hotels, Business, Currency, Shipplasters, Social Life and Manners in the Rebel Capital.

Relations of Jeff. Davis and Gov. Letcher.

A Continuous Camp from Richmond to Nashville.

Sketches at Lynchburg, Loudon, Chattanooga and Nashville.

Fortifications and Transports on the Mississippi.

Numerical Strength, Distribution and Equipments of the Southern Army.

Supplies, Means of Transportation, Generals and Munitions of War.

The Questions of Cotton, Negroes and the Maintenance of the War.

SOUTHERN HATRED AGAINST THE NORTH.

By W. H. H. & Co.

to be soon back again within the jurisdiction of Mr. Jefferson Davis. Enough to say that I spent several weeks recently in the capital of the Confederate States—for here I may say, in passing, that all over the South the pretty little city on the left bank of the James river is spoken of as "the capital," just as Washington used to be in the United States, and still is in the eyes of the people there. I was not an idle or uninterested observer of men and things in and about Richmond, and in that section of the South through which I made my way "over the border," and if you consider my observations of sufficient interest to deserve a corner in the *HERALD*, they are most willingly at your service.

RICHMOND AND ITS ENVIRONS.

The principal feature that strikes every one who sees Richmond for the first time is its curious topography. From the James river, which, tumbling over its rocky bed, makes a wide bend here, with its curves facing the city, rises, without any regard to uniformity of direction, some half dozen hills, of grave formation, and of pretty considerable elevation. There has never been any attempt to grade them into level streets, but the city is scattered promiscuously up and on and over them, just as fashion-taste or business may have happened to dictate. The principal part of the city, however, occupies actually one of these elevations, and the garden spot of that one is the Capitol square, where stands the building of which Jefferson procured the design in France, but which, however magnificent it may have been deemed in the simple, unpretentious days in which it was built, is certainly not to be lauded now either for its beauty or for its adaptation to the wants of a State Legislature, much less those of a Congress of Confederate States. Within the same enclosure is the Governor's mansion, where poor John Letcher, badgered and bullied and blackguarded on all sides, resigns himself to his fate, and, if all be true that the Examiner charges, tries to beguile it with jolly living. In the centre of the square is the beautiful question statue of Washington, looking as calm and serene and commanding as if the city which he overlooks was not the centre and hub of the Confederacy that ever showed itself in the light of day. The pedestal is designed for eight other statues of distinguished Virginians, but three of which have yet been put in their places. These are Jefferson, Henry and Mason—not the arrogant self-conceited blockhead who recently represented the State in the Senate at Washington, and has now gone seeking recognition at London, as the diplomatic representative of secessionism, but a far purer, wiser and more patriotic namesake of his. Here also is a small statue to Henry Clay.

THE UNION PRISONERS OF WAR.

Richmond has really but one business thoroughfare. That is Main street. Most of the hotels, banks, newspaper offices and stores are located on it. It extends northward into the open country, and southward to a suburb called Rocketts. In this latter section of it are situated some of the tobacco warehouses where our Union prisoners are now confined. (The map which we publish will show the points referred to by our correspondents.—Ed. *HERALD*.) These are large old brick edifices, of mouldy, dilapidated appearance. They stand three together on the side of the street—which here is of a most dingy character—and two nearly opposite. Those on the north side are overlooked by the bluffs in which Church Hill here terminates, and which supply gravel for the city, while those on the south side of the street have the James river and Kanawha Canal, and the river itself immediately in their rear. I have often passed by these prison houses, and had my feelings lacerated by seeing the condition of the brave men who are suffering here for their loyalty and devotion to the country. It is hard to find out anything relating to the affairs of the government, and ineffectiveness into public matters is not a safe weakness to indulge in. Observations have there-

fore to be made quietly, patiently, and on whatever slight data may be casually presented or acquired. My observation leads me to think that there are, on the average, two hundred men confined in each of these warehouses, huddled together, with not much more regard to health than a humane captain of a slave vessel would show to his freight of emigrants from the Congo river to the Havana. The lower doors are assigned to the officers, the windows being strongly grated; the upper ones are occupied by the gawk and the filch of our men who fell into the rebels' hands at Manassas and elsewhere. The condition of all, officers and men, is pitiable and deplorable to the last degree, and not another day should be lost without our government adopting some means by which its faithful but unfortunate adherents in Richmond may be rescued from their misery and restored to the light of freedom and the comforts of home. These men ought not to be sacrificed any longer to a mere diplomatic or political technicality. Humanity, reason, justice, common sense, all appeal in tones that should not be ignored, for a prompt termination to the senseless quibbles of which those brave men are the victims. The rebellion can be quelled just as effectually after an exchange of prisoners if effected as before. I believe there are one or two other warehouses and mills in the western part of the city near the canal basin, where more of our Union prisoners are confined. The bulk of them, however, have been sent further South.

CHURCH HILLS AND THE HOSPITALS.

Near the summit of the elevation known as Church Hill is a large, old fashioned brick building known as the Alms house. It has been converted from its original purpose, and now serves as a hospital for our sick and wounded. Sisters of Charity come and go, uniting angles of consolation, and the hearse is kept in constant requisition, so great is the mortality that prevails here. Many of the private houses in the vicinity are also converted into temporary hospitals. As a general thing, the former residents of this part of the city have gone elsewhere since the location of the hospitals here; and now on every tenth house or more you see waving a little, dainty, white-yellow flag, denoting a lazar-house. The Old Fellows' Hall, on Broad street, is also used as a general hospital. A great deal of sickness prevails in the Confederate army. Some whole regiments have been completely ravaged by small-pox. Much of the sickness is ascribed to the putrid state of the atmosphere around Manassas, arising from the unburied bodies of men and horses killed in the battle of Bull Run; and great dissatisfaction was expressed against Beauregard for keeping his army there instead of advancing against Washington. On the most commanding part of Church Hill still stands, in good preservation too, the church in which Patrick Henry made the famous speech at the commencement of the Revolutionary struggle, where he used that memorable and oft-quoted phrase, "Give me liberty, or give me death." Around the church are the graves of the last generation of the people of Richmond, and I was no little disgusted to observe that few of the headstones had escaped the profane vandalism of some scooters, who, as a proof of their wit, put the figure "41" before the figures recording the ages of the deceased, making it appear that those who rested here from their labors had enjoyed incredibly patriarchal lengths of years.

THE JAMES RIVER AND KANAWHA CANAL.

Between this hill and the rickety suburb known as Rocketts there is a large encampment, and I believe there are also batteries here, for the defence of the river. I know that there certainly are batteries on the bluffs, above and beyond Rocketts. Near here the few steamers and sailing craft used to trade to Richmond had their mooring places, and here also the James River and Kanawha Canal has its southern outlet into the river, this is a great work of internal improvement,

so far as the design is concerned; but, unfortunately, for Virginia, her execution does not keep pace with her plans, and the canal, though open for many years, does not come within a long distance of the Kanawha river, which it was intended to tap. If it ever will do so, it must be after secession is crushed and the Union restored.

INTRENCHMENTS AND CAMPS OF INSTRUCTION.

But Richmond is not, as seems erroneously to be considered, garrisoned by a large army. So far as I could see there are only camps of instruction maintained here. The recruits are sent for drill and equipment, and when they are considered tolerable in those respects they are forwarded to Manassas or other points, and their place supplied by new comers. One camp of instruction is a level track of ground between the penitentiary and the new cemetery, which used to be occupied as a fair ground. Another, and more extensive one, is on the north side of the city, about a mile and a half out on the line of the Fredericksburg Railroad, where there is an enclosure of about a mile square, sometimes used as a race course. I believe it is called the New Fair Ground. Near it is the Baptist College, an institution for the whole South. The only extensive intrenchments in the neighborhood of the city are also in this vicinity. They extend northward for half a mile commanding the railroad, but even they are not mounted with guns, so confident are the military authorities of the strength of the rebel army concentrated around Manassas, and which must be defeated before an army can penetrate from the northward to the environs of the Confederate capital.

It would be vain to attempt particularizing the localities of the encampments. Richmond, like ancient Rome, is seated on her seven hills—or more—and wherever there is space and suitable ground for camps, they are covered with tents. The soldiers are not allowed quarters in the city, but are kept strictly to their camp life; but the officers—sons of all the first families—are treated with more consideration, and are allowed to consult their comfort so far as to occupy town quarters. The hotels are consequently crammed with them from garret to basement. There may be from eight to ten thousand soldiers around Richmond, but they are not regarded, as I said, in the light of a garrison, but only as apprentices acquiring their military lessons in military life. They are, therefore, kept constantly on the move; those who have had the advantage of a five or six weeks training giving place to new hands. They have commenced to erect wooden barracks and huts for the soldiers at the various encampments, the most numerous and extensive being on the fair grounds to the north of the city. These erections are becoming so extensive as to lead to the idea that a large part of the rebel army in Virginia are to winter in Richmond.

GOVERNOR LETCHER AND PRESIDENT DAVIS.

I do not believe that very friendly or confidential relations exist between John Letcher, as head of the State government, and Jefferson Davis, as head of the rebel confederacy. The former can, by no proof of his ability, servility to the rebel cause, prevail upon the ultra secession element to place confidence in him. Besides, he is altogether too plebeian in origin and appearance, and too democratic in his tastes, to suit the delicate fastidiousness and the exacting requirements of pure blood, on which the chivalry pride themselves. I will not say that any decidedly hostile feeling is manifested in the relations of the State and Confederate executives, but I am inclined to believe, from all I can gather, that those relations are the reverse of friendly. The citizens and the soldiers treat Letcher with the utmost contempt, while Davis has from them demonstrations of respect and confidence that might flatter the vanity of a European despot. When Davis came first to Richmond, he put up at the Spottwood Hotel, but this residence was

too public and too vulgar to suit either his taste or necessities. The citizens, therefore, procured for him and fitted up in the most expensive manner, a very large and beautiful residence on Marshall street. I believe it is built of white marble. It occupies a large plot of ground, the garden sweeping down, terrace like, in the direction of that deep gully which separates this part of the city from Church Hill. Here he holds his court, and is all the time surrounded by military officers and civil dignitaries. He has but recently recovered from a severe attack of intermittent fever, the same from which he was reported to have died.

ARSENAL, IRON WORKS, WATER WORKS, ETC.

In the western section of the city, on the bank of the James river, is the State Arsenal, a large, substantial building, where arms are being manufactured. Quite close to it are the Tredgar iron works, an extensive concern, which has done nothing since April last except cast cannon and balls for the use of the rebels. The same day that the news of the fall of Fort Sumter reached Richmond the rebel flag was hoisted from the grounds of the Tredgar—not, however, by the proprietors, but by a party composed of several rebel members of the State Convention then in session, one of the editors of the *Enquirer*, and Colonel Moore, of the First Virginia Militia. The latter gentleman is an Irishman by birth, long resident in Richmond, where he keeps a large hardware establishment on Main street, and is a genial, high-minded and high-toned man. He was wounded at the battle of Bull Run. On the bluff rising above the Tredgar works stands the penitentiary, surrounded by a high wall, and some distance back of it is the new cemetery. The level space between is used as a camp of instruction. A little higher up the river, just where the grounds of the Cemetery come down, are the water-works. The conception of them is very simple; the water from the James river being made by a dam to flow into a basin, from which it is pumped to a reservoir in an elevated part of the city.

[The basin and other points referred to by our correspondent are shown in the accompanying map.—Ed. *HERALD*.]

So much for the topographical and other prominent features of the city. I wish I could present them more clearly, but I still hope that they are sufficiently intelligible. As to business, it is generally represented as completely ruined, except those branches of trade that are connected with the equipment and supplies of the army. These are flourishing, but the only currency to be had is paper money; and when the war ends those who have appeared to drive the most thriving business will probably find themselves rich only in worthless shipplasters. Nevertheless the people do not seem inclined to look far into the future, and as bank notes, issued in unlimited supply, and without any regard to a corresponding capital, will pass current in trade, there do not appear to be very hard times. These branches of trade that are connected with articles of luxury, or articles not of the first necessity, are entirely ruined, and many are the empty stores that can be seen in Main street, silent witnesses against the madness of the hour. Still the sidewalks are crowded with pedestrians, and on the whole Richmond may be said to be a gay city.

SOUTHERN BOMBARD.

The people are carried away with the flush of the partial success of the rebels, and more than ever, wanted in the vast superiority of Southerners over Yankees, do by a triumph of the national arms, which would bring these people to their senses. I think that one grand battle and decisive victory in Virginia would burst the bubble, dispel the insanity that has seized upon the popular mind in the South, disorganize their immense army and

lead to a speedy restoration of peace, order and obedience to law. But every little check that our arms sustain is manifested by these boasters, and is an additional obstacle in the way of peace. Every party of Union soldiers that is paraded through the streets of Richmond on their way to prison appears to these American Gaucos intolerable evidence of their great superiority over the men of the North. Captivity itself is hard to bear, but nothing is made doubly severe by the taunts of the women and negroes, and by the feeling that every one of these unavoidable incidents of war is taken as a proof of Southern valor. I have often thought that the negroes, with the cunning of their race, make a show of hostility to North's men prisoners only the better to ward off suspicion from themselves, and gain the good will and confidence of the white folk.

HOTELS.

The hotels are doing a thriving business, as I said. They have increased their rates for board from twenty-five to fifty per cent. The Exchange and Ballard's—which constitute really but one establishment—charge two and a half dollars per day, and the Spotswood, which is now the resort of the elite of Southern society, three dollars. The American used to be the headquarters of the Western anti-secession members of the Convention, but now it is among the most prominent of rebel establishments. Little secession flags flutter from every window, while larger ones are displayed from all the principal buildings in the city. Payments are all made in Virginia and Tennessee currency, and change given in the shape of shipplasters, of one of which, for twenty-five cents, I give you a copy—

TWENTY-FIVE CENT SHIPPLASTER.

25 RICHMOND, I. No. 11,281. Aug. 1, 1861. 25

METROPOLITAN SAVINGS BANK.

Will pay the bearer Twenty Five Cents in current funds, when presented in sums of five dollars or its multiple.

N. W. HART, for Cashier. W. P. PUGHING, for Pres't.

Some of these promises to pay depend on the low figure of five cents—the lowest coin that practically circulates in the South, for copper and nickel coins are entirely hoarded. But all specie circulation has really ceased, and nothing but paper passes from hand to hand. Won't there be a universal smash up in the South when the hour of redemption—in a financial as well as a political sense—arrives? But I verily believe that it is one of the delusions of the hour which have got hold of the public mind here, and which encourages this rebellion, that when the pipe of peace comes to be smoked, Uncle Sam will be liberal enough to pay the paper on all sides, and consequently that they who hold shavings of worthless paper money will, at the end of the war, find them converted into shining heaps of gold and silver.

POSTAL AFFAIRS.

The handsome edifice erected by the general government a few years ago in Main street, Richmond, for the purpose of a post office, is still applied to the use for which it was designed. Postal arrangements in the South, although sadly shorn of their former completeness, still preserve an air of regular existence. To be sure it sometimes takes the mail from Memphis a week or ten days to reach Richmond; but then the answer to the grumblers is, that even in the North the regularity of the mails is, at present and on account of the system in the South. Many of the contractors for carrying the United States mails continue to perform their contracts under the Confederate government, receiving bonds in payment. Others have thrown up their contracts rather than take such problematical remuneration, and besides that, a large proportion of the mail routes have been discontinued. Perhaps there is no deprivation resulting from this war which